

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Sample questions are provided by CTB/McGraw-Hill (Copyright 1997). These questions are similar to actual test questions that may be asked on WKCE-CRT. WKCE-CRT test questions continue to be used outside Wisconsin and, consequently, are not released by CTB/McGraw-Hill. Actual questions are available for inspection by contacting your district or school assessment coordinator.

Sample questions can be accessed at: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/oea/profitem.html>.

WISCONSIN MODEL ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Academic standards specify what students should know and be able to do. They include content, performance, and proficiency standards.

Information on the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards can be accessed at: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/oea/standrds.html>.

Information on the range of coverage on the reading or mathematics portion of the WKCE-CRT in grades 3 through 8 and 10 can be accessed at:

Reading:
www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/oea/wkce-crt/read_framework.html

Mathematics:
www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/oea/wkce-crt/math_framework.html.



Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

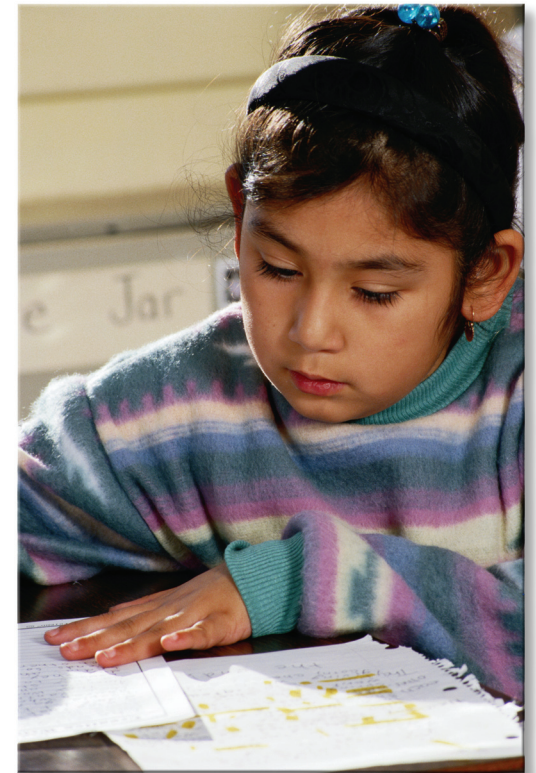
**Wisconsin Department
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WISCONSIN KNOWLEDGE AND
CONCEPTS EXAMINATIONS-CRITERION
REFERENCED TEST
(CRT)

STUDENT/PARENT
PRE-TEST BROCHURE



GRADES 3-8 & 10

2005-2006



A NOTE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

What is the Wisconsin Student Assessment System?

The Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) is a comprehensive statewide accountability program designed to provide information about what students know in core academic areas. The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion Referenced Test (WKCE-CRT) is one component of WSAS. The WSAS also includes alternate assessments for students with disabilities and English Language learners. Beginning in Fall 2005, the WKCE-CRT will be administered to students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 10.

What are the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations-CRT?

These standardized tests include commercially developed questions used in schools across the country and questions customized specifically for Wisconsin in order to improve coverage of Wisconsin academic standards. The WKCE-CRT for grades 3 through 8 and 10 measures achievement in reading and mathematics, using multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The WKCE-CRT for grades 4, 8 and 10 also measures achievement in language arts, science, social studies and writing.

What is the purpose of the assessment?

The WKCE-CRT is implemented as a large-scale statewide accountability system designed to provide

- Information about students' attainment of academic proficiency for students, parents, and teachers;
- Information to support curriculum and instructional planning; and
- A measure of accountability for schools and districts.

How are the test results used?

WKCE-CRT results are used by the Department of Public Instruction as an accountability measure in order to

- Meet its statutory requirement of identifying low-performing schools as stipulated by s. 115.38(4), Wisconsin Statutes;
- Meet the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001(NCLB) requirement of using high-quality assessments to determine how well children are learning;
- Meet the federal Title I (NCLB) requirement to determine adequate yearly progress in Title I schools; and
- Determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state meet the Wisconsin proficiency standards.

What type of scores will be provided?

The WKCE-CRT is a criterion-referenced standardized test. A criterion-referenced score conveys information about what students can and cannot do in relation to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards (WMAS). Students receive proficiency scores based on their performance on these examinations. The proficiency levels (Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Minimal Performance) were established by a panel of Wisconsin educators. For more information about proficiency-level descriptors, contact your school staff or visit the Department's Office of Educational Accountability website at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/oea/profdesc.html#general>.

The WKCE-CRT test results give only certain kinds of information about student achievement. To obtain a more complete picture, daily classwork, other test results, homework, and other learning activities need to be considered. Please talk to teachers and counselors about how the WKCE-CRT

information can be used with local data to help your child meet his/her educational goals. We also encourage school district personnel to use school and district test results to form a more complete picture of student achievement and to improve educational programs.

Who will be tested and when?

Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, NCLB requires all states to test all students in reading and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school (grade 10 under Wisconsin law s.118.30). The Department will continue to assess Language Arts and a writing prompt, Science, and Social Studies at grades 4, 8, and 10 per s.118.30. Under federal law, the department is required to provide for inclusion of all students in the statewide assessment programs, using accommodations when necessary. In addition, alternate assessments must be provided to students for whom the state assessment is inappropriate.

Under s.118.30(2)(b)3, Wisconsin Statutes, a parent or guardian may request that the school board excuse a child from taking the WKCE-CRT at grades 4, 8, and 10.

When does WKCE-CRT testing take place?

WKCE-CRT testing for the 2005-2006 school year takes place between October 24-November 25, 2005. The total time required for the administration of the tests varies by grade and may range from 5 to 8 1/2 hours. Testing is spread out over several days. Schools set their own testing schedule. If your child is absent during testing, it is important that a makeup opportunity be scheduled.

Review of the WKCE-CRT

All WKCE-CRT tests will be made available for review under secure conditions in each school and school district within 90 days of their administration.